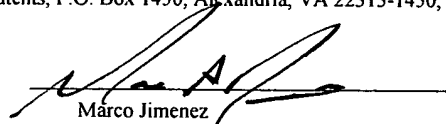


PATENT
Docket No. 199372003500

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EL981959024US in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 29, 2003.


Marco Jimenez

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Takayuki TOSHIMA et al.

Serial No.: 09/971,136

Filing Date: October 3, 2001

For: SUBSTRATE PROCESSING METHOD
AND SUBSTRATE PROCESSING
APPARATUS

Examiner: Frankie L. Stinson

Group Art Unit: 1746

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 & 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and § 1.98, Applicants submit for consideration in the above-identified application the document listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. A copy of the document is also submitted herewith. The Examiner is requested to make this document of record.

01/06/2004 CCHAUI 00000182 031952 09971136
02 FC:1806 180.00 DA

la-700083

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

- ☐ With the application; accordingly, no fee or separate requirements are required.
- ☐ Before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under § 1.114. However, if applicable, a certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (e)(1) has been provided.
- ☐ Within three months of the application filing date or before mailing of a first Office Action on the merits; accordingly, no fee or separate requirements are required. However, if applicable, a certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (e)(1) has been provided.
- ☒ After receipt of a first Office Action on the merits but before mailing of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance.
 - ☐ A fee is required. A check in the amount of ___ is enclosed.
 - ☒ A fee is required. Accordingly, a Fee Transmittal form (PTO/SB/17) is attached to this submission in duplicate.
 - ☐ A Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is provided above; accordingly; no fee is believed to be due.
- ☐ After mailing of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the issue fee.
 - ☐ A Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is provided above and a check in the amount of ___ is enclosed.
 - ☐ A Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is provided above and a Fee Transmittal form (PTO/SB/17 is attached to this submission in duplicate.)

Applicants would appreciate the Examiner initialing and returning the Form PTO-1449, indicating that the information has been considered and made of record herein.

The information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and § 1.98 is not to be construed as a representation that: (i) a complete search has been made; (ii) additional information material to the examination of this application does

not exist; (iii) the information, protocols, results and the like reported by third parties are accurate or enabling; or (iv) the above information constitutes prior art to the subject invention.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal form is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief (such as payment of a fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (p)) is required, Applicants petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing **199372003500**. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

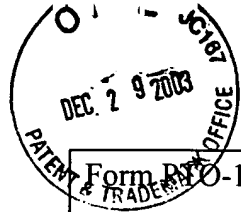
Dated: December 29, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Form PTO-1449

Docket Number 199372003500

Application Number 09/971,136

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION
IN AN APPLICATION

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Applicant

Takayuki TOSHIMA et al.

Filing Date October 3, 2001

Group Art Unit 1746

Mailing Date December 29, 2003

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Ref. No.	Date	Document No.	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	1.	12/06/1994	5,370,846	Yokomi et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Ref. No.	Date	Document No.	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation YES NO
	2.						

OTHER DOCUMENTS

(including author, title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

Examiner Initials	Ref. No.	Title
	3.	

EXAMINER:

DATE CONSIDERED:

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not the citation conforms with MPEP 609. Draw a line through the citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include a copy of this form with next communication to applicant.